

IRISH TRAWLERS FOR NOVA SCOTIA

Says the Halifax Chronicle:

"Within six months from now there will be no less than five beam trawler, belonging to Buckworth, Mumby, limited, of Cork, Ireland, operating out of Nova Scotia ports. Recent restrictions placed on trawling in the waters of the British Isles by the Admiralty, together with previous experience of the fishing to be had in Nova Scotia waters, have led the owners of these craft to further extend their fleet in our waters. There are now two of these trawlers at Halifax, one of which has been at work in these parts for some months and has latterly been fresh-fishing out of Lockeport.

"The second arrived here on Wednesday from Iceland, and after extensive repairs have been made to her, she having suffered considerable damage on the trip, she will join in the work of her sister ship. These two ships are respectively the Andromache and the General Gordon. They are excellent specimens of the best type of Grimsby trawler. The recently appointed skipper of the Andromache is Captain Hansen, who has a splendid reputation in the business. The General Gordon has two skippers, Captain MacDermott being the British master, while Captain Josephsen is from Iceland, as are also the remainder of the crew.

"A third trawler, the Xerxes, owned by the same firm, is now on Admiralty service in the North Sea or thereabouts, and as soon as released she will come to Nova Scotia to join the boats already here. A fourth ship has been launched and will be in commission within the next few months, and is expected here by June. The fifth is now on the stocks at Grimsby and it is thought she will be ready for sea in time to be here by September.

"The two trawlers now here will continue the fresh-fishing out of Lockeport for three weeks or so, after which they will proceed to North Sydney, making that port their headquarters."

NOT AN ARRIVAL HERE TODAY

Two Shore Boats and Gill Netters Landed Fares Yesterday Afternoon.

Two shore crafts and the gill netters landed the bulk of yesterday afternoon's receipts of fresh fish. There were no arrivals here this forenoon.

The gill netters had about 20,000 pounds, the Ethel and Sawyer having the largest lifts. Sch. Leonora Silveria from the shore had 7000 pounds and sch. Edith Silveria, 3500 pounds fresh fish.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are.

Sch. Leonora Silveria, shore, 7000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Edith Silveria, shore, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Lorena, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Quartette, gill netting, 800 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Julia May, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Evelyn H., gill netting, 1400 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Dolphine, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Medomak, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Ethel, gill netting, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Sawyer, gill netting, 3000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Quoddy, gill netting, 1200 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Enterprise, gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Robert and Edwin, gill netting, 800 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Mystery, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Carrie and Mildred, gill netting, returned.

Str. Rough Rider, gill netting, returned.

Str. Sunflower, gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Muriel, haddocking.

Sch. Rose Standish, haddocking.

Sch. Volant, halibuting.

Salt Bankers Fitting.

Capt. Ormsby Seeley is fitting sch. Bohemia and Capt. William Morrissey is fitting sch. Blanche for salt trawl banking. These two vessels will complete the fleet of nine.

In Command of the Water Witch.

Capt. Albert Sadler has taken command of sch. Water Witch in gill netting.

FISH MARKET IS LOOKING UP

Arrivals at Boston Continue

Light and Dealers Hungry for Fish-

Boston receipts this morning were light. T wharf had one arrival, sch. Matthew S. Greer, which reported with 18,000 pounds, while at the new pier there were five trips and one from yesterday afternoon. The largest fare was the Provincetown schooner Gertrude DeCosta with 42,000 pounds fresh fish and 2000 pounds fresh halibut.

Wholesalers paid \$4.75 to \$5.50 a hundred for haddock, \$6 for large and \$3.50 to \$4 for market cod, \$4 to \$6 for hake, \$3.50 for pollock and 16 cents a pound for halibut.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

ARRIVALS AT T WHARF.

Sch. Matthew S. Greer, 16,000 haddock, 2000 cod, 500 pollock.

ARRIVALS AT BOSTON FISH PIER.

Sch. Gertrude DeCosta, 26,000 haddock, 12,000 cod, 4000 cusk, 2000 halibut.

Sch. Emily Sears, 500 haddock, 1700 cod.

Sch. Manomet, 500 haddock, 4000 cod, 2000 hake.

Sch. Buema, 7000 haddock, 3000 cod.

Sch. Emerald, 3500 flounders.

Sch. Mary DeCosta, 3500 haddock, 600 cod, 500 pollock.

Haddock \$4.75 to \$5.50 per cwt.; large cod, \$6; market cod, \$3.50 to \$4; hake, \$4 to \$6; pollock, \$3.50; halibut, 16¢ per lb. for white and gray.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$5 per cwt.; medium, \$4.25; snappers, \$3. Georges halibut codfish, large, \$5; medium, \$4.25. Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$4.25; medium, \$3.75; snappers, \$3. Cusk, large, \$2.50; medium, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.50. Hake, \$1.50. Haddock, \$1.75. Pollock, \$1.50. Newfoundland herring, \$3.25 per bbl. for salt bulk, \$4.25 per bbl. for pickled.

Fresh Fish.

Splitting prices: Haddock, \$1.10 per cwt. Western cod, large, \$2.25; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75¢. Eastern cod, large, \$2; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75¢. All codfish, not gilled, 10¢ per 100 pounds less than above. Hake, \$1.25. Cusk, large, \$1.75; medium, \$1.15; snappers, 50¢. Pollock, round, 80¢; dressed, 90¢. Fresh halibut 12-14¢ for white and 10-14¢ for grays.

Newfoundland frozen herring, 3¢ per lb.

EXPECT ICE TO GO OUT EARLY

An early opening of the St. Lawrence is predicted, which means that the Northerners will probably be able to get the Magdalens in good season on the codfish as they make their way up the Gulf.

A despatch to the Halifax Chronicle says:

Experienced navigators forecast an early opening of river navigation, say the river will be free of ice from Montreal to the sea by April 15. The river is open from the sea point sixteen miles below Trois Rivières and it is expected both the calm and Lady Grey, the government ice-breakers will reach Three Rivers on Sunday or Monday.

Good Stock.

Sch. Smuggler, Capt. MacConrad, on her trip of 60,000 lbs. of fresh fish at Boston yesterday stocked \$2324 and the crew shared clear.

Sch. Bay State, Capt. Archie Macdonald, stocked \$1700 on her recent halibut trip and the crew shared clear.

First Shad of the Season.

An eight-pound shad, the first of the season, was caught last week at Boon's Creek, Md., by the fishing fit of George Wilson, Henry and Broadwater and Stanley Deepshank, H. Crawford, a fish dealer of Halifax, was purchaser.

Going Halibuting.

Capt. Carlin Olson is fitting Fannie E. Prescott for fresh halibut.

Sch. Georgianna, Capt. Gordonson, will now change from docking to halibuting.

CHARTERED FOR THE MAGDALENS

Five Nova Scotia schooners, three of which have been laid up at Halifax during the winter months, have been chartered to sail for the Magdalens Islands for cargoes of herring for Grand Manan as soon as navigation opens. The vessels are the Palatia, now at Jeddore, the Stanley, now at Halifax, the Burnett C., now at Isaac's Harbor, the Ada Mildred, now at Halifax, and the Albertha, also at Halifax.

"RHODY" MAY BEAM TRAWL

A bill prohibiting beam trawling in Rhode Island waters is now before the Legislature of that state. The impression is that it will pass law.

NEW LAWS NEEDED FOR LOBSTERMEN

We Pay \$1,000,000 for Food We Might Readily Provide.

It has been evident for a long time to those who know the facts about the lobster fisheries of Massachusetts, that some change is necessary in the laws, otherwise this industry will be utterly lost, passing into the hands of citizens of other States. Action in the direction of improving the laws is proposed in House Bill 422, the principle of which is to license lobster fishermen, and to the citizens of the Commonwealth is due a plain statement of the facts.

The prodigality and wastefulness of man have in few other lines brought so near to extinction so important a food product as the lobster. The policy of the past has been an unfortunate one for the lobster-catching industry of the State, and the citizens of Mas-

sachusetts pay today to out-of-State distributors more than \$1,000,000 for a food which the adjacent waters might readily provide.

The fact is patent that the State has permitted a profitable industry to diminish until today it is all but gone. Instead of supplying lobsters to other parts of the country, which it could do with the proper policy, it is not supplying its own needs but pays a million each year, largely to Canadian fishermen, for what it consumes. This shortage in the home supply has contributed, moreover, to the large increase in the cost.

Every year, when the decreasing lobster supply is spoken of, the newspapers print reports of this and that locality where the crustaceans are more plentiful than ever. To such the figures of the Massachusetts catch should prove a silencer. Here they are from the reports of the State Commissioners on Fisheries and Game.

Year.	Fisher-men.	Traps.	No. of Lobsters		Ave'ge Egg-Catch Per Pot
			Above 10 1/2 Inches.	Bearing Lobsters.	
1888	367	26,418	1,740,850	81
1889	344	20,016	1,359,645	61,832	68
1890	379	19,554	1,612,129	70,909	82
1891	327	15,448	1,292,791	49,973	84
1892	312	14,064	1,107,764	37,230	79
1893	371	17,012	1,149,732	32,741	62
1894	425	20,803	1,096,834	34,897	54
1895	377	17,205	956,365	34,343	56
1896	453	22,041	995,396	30,470	45
1897	388	18,829	896,273	23,719	48
1898	340	16,195	720,413	19,931	44
1899	327	15,350	644,633	16,470	42
1900	309	14,086	646,499	15,638	46
1901	331	16,286	578,383	16,353	35
1902	410	20,058	670,245	34
1903	309	20,121	665,466	33
1904	326	19,539	552,290	13,950	28
1905	287	13,829	426,471	9,865	31
1907	379	21,342	1,039,886*	10,348	49
1908	349	19,294	1,035,123*	9,081	54
1909	522	29,996	1,326,219*	11,666	45
1910	390	26,760	935,356*	7,857	35
1911	341	19,773	822,107*	5,488	42
1912	284	16,445	636,203*	4,744	36
1913	254	13,877	543,125*	3,408	..

Number of lobsters above 9 inches, in

Passing of the Lobster.

It needs no statistician to see that this table points to extinction of the lobster so far as the Massachusetts fishermen are concerned. In point of number of lobsters caught it needs but a glance to see that in the first seven years the catch declined nearly one-half, and in ten years more nearly three-quarters. Then, in 1907, because the law allowed the taking of lobsters of only nine inches in length instead of ten and one-half, the number rose only to decline again in much the same fashion as before. The policy that the State has pursued is evidently one of extinction. That this is pretty near is evident from other columns in the table. Everything has declined save the number of men required to trap a lobster. In 1889, 344 men with 20,000

these years the legal minimum length.

traps took 1,400,000 lobsters; in 1909, more than 500 men with 30,000 traps took about the same number. The efficiency of the latter group was probably not quite half of the former group, and of late years it is seen that the same or even an increased number of men with an increased number of pots have not been able to stay the decline in the catch. In plain English, the lobsters are not there to be caught and will not be until a policy more in accord with science is adopted.

That the lobsters are really getting smaller is readily shown by the records. Measurements made in 1905-06 determined that 159 lobsters of more than twelve inches in length were taken to every 100 of less than twelve inches, while two years later there were but 75 of the larger lobsters to every 100 smaller ones. The falling off in large lobsters has thus been about one-third.

Then there are fewer even of the small lobsters. This is shown by the decline in the average catch per pot. The catch was 81 in 1888 and dropped to 33 in 1903 and 28 in 1904. With the taking of the shorter lobsters it rose to 49 and 54, but now is again on its downward way.

The Gravest Indication.

Condemnatory of past practices as are these figures, they do not present the most serious phase of the situation; namely, that the egg-bearing lobsters caught, the true index of the production potentialities of the race, are diminishing with alarming rapidity. This is evident from one of the columns of the table. The normal ratio of fruitful females to the total catch is one in four; when statistics touched this matter in 1889 the ratio was 1 in 22, and under the ten and one-half inch regulation it steadily declined to about as many (1 in 42) in 1905. When the new regulation came into effect the number dropped to 1 in

104; in three years it had gone down to 1 in 117, and in 1912 it was 1 in 135. Massachusetts has tried palliative measures and has endeavored to stave off the utter destruction of egg-bearing females by offering to purchase them from the fishermen at about the market rates. There is no question about the value of this policy as far as it goes, and with many of the fishermen the number of females that they render to the State authorities is the number that they have taken.

But on the other hand it is easy to avoid bother and delay by removing the eggs. The female carries her eggs cemented to the under side of the tail, and here they remain for eleven months till they are hatched. It is a very simple proceeding to brush the creature with a whisk broom and in a moment convert it into a commercial lobster. With unregulated fishermen who have not uniform spirit and feeling, it is impossible to gauge the number of females stripped of their eggs in a season.

Catching Short Lobsters.

Then there are the short lobsters. It is an open secret that in Canada the authorities despair of enforcing the legal size on lobster taken by their fishermen along the shores. Travellers from the islands tell interesting tales of how lobsters down to "grasshopper size" are put up in kitchen canneries and no one is the wiser.

In the first place, assuming the offender to be caught, it is said that his fines are paid from a pool. With comparatively few convictions the contributors may easily maintain this pool at a profit. But, "first catch your lobster man." It is not difficult for the fishermen to secure the shorts at the critical times, where they can easily be dropped overboard. On the approach of the inspecting vessel the incriminating evidence is cast into the sea.

The magnitude of the short lobster catch may be shown by the fact that the commissioners have found and liberated in Boston harbor as many as 12,000 short lobsters in three months, while suggestive splashes noted by the inspecting boat are grounds for a belief that the annual catch of these illegal lobsters is in the hundreds of thousands. Another straw in the way of evidence is to be found in the statements of one reformed fisherman, whose personal gain from such sources ran up to \$40 a month.

It is evident therefore that some treatment more drastic than a mere fine will be needed to deal with the

short lobster fishermen. This position has been taken by some groups of the more intelligent men, and local associations have been formed. The purpose of these is to unite the intelligent, law-abiding fishermen against those who are looking only for immediate personal gain. The movement began at Gloucester where the Cape Ann Lobstermen's Association of ninety members has established itself to protect the lobster industry and look to proper legislation. Within the limits of last year other associations have formed, Boston Harbor with sixty members, and still others have organized along the South Shore, Nahant and Swampscott and Marblehead, Salem and Manchester, which are in accord with the plan for licensing fishermen.

Licenses for Fishermen.

The requiring of hunting licenses is a plan which has proved in Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine and other States to be a successful means of controlling hunters and protecting public and private property from irresponsible persons. Hunting on land has been controlled, but hunting in the sea, which fishing really is, has been every man's right. The Colonial spirit that gave to every one of the handful of

citizens the right to dig clams, fish and set marine traps anywhere dominated the situation today. There are certain popular ideas that persist, one of them being that the poor man has a right to his food from the sea, but those who are able to read the signs know that conservation of marine products is now necessary.

This feeling that the products of the sea are free of all limitations seems to be the only argument barring the way to the solution of one of the important difficulties in this State. There are a number of factions which centre about it, but the arguments are practically the same. The solution and the situation demand that if Massachusetts is not to lose the lobster industry altogether, it must see to it that the men who practise it are under reasonable control.

The bill in question carries with it the same penalty that the hunter's license does, revocation for a year if the holder is convicted of infraction of the game laws. It is proposed that the fisherman who is convicted of taking short lobsters or females with their eggs, shall be debarred from the fishing privileges for a similar length of time.

The fundamental principles are simple; Massachusetts is losing a business capable of being fostered into millions of dollars a year; it is losing this through mistaken policies that have proved their own futility. A reasonable measure for the amelioration of the situation is under consideration and needs support. —John Ritchie Jr. in the Boston Transcript.